

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAGOS 01116 01 OF 02 271229Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----055397 271230Z /10

O R 271019Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6158
INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LAGOS 1116

EXDIS

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: RH, UK, PDEV
SUBJECT: FMG AWAITS ARRIVAL OF NKOMO AND MUGABE

REF: (A) STATE 019754, (B) DAR ES SALAAM 0314

SUMMARY: OBASANJO WILL PRESS PF LEADERS IN LAGOS THIS WEEKEND
TO TAKE A POSITIVE APPROACH AT MALTA. FMG RECOGNIZES THE
STRENGTH OF PF OBJECTIVES TO PORTIONS OF THE A-A PROPOSAL,
HOWEVER, AND REMAINS SKEPTICAL OF CREDIBILITY OF BRITISH
REJECTION OF AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. WHATEVER THE RESULT
AT MALTA, FMG FEARS INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WILL ATTRACT
SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL ACQUIESCENCE AND AFRICA WILL SPLIT
ON THE ISSUE. END SUMMARY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LAGOS 01116 01 OF 02 271229Z

1. I BRIEFED AKADIRI JANUARY 26 ALONG LINES PRESCRIBED
IN REFTELS. AGREEING THAT MALTA MIGHT BE THE LAST
CHANCE FOR THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSAL, AKADIRI SAID
WE COULD COUNT ON OBASANJO TO MAINTAIN HIS PRESSURES
ON THE PATRIOTIC FRONT TO TAKE A POSITIVE APPROACH TO
THE DISCUSSIONS.

2. WHEN I CITED PF REFUSAL TO ACCEPT SUCH CENTRAL ELEMENTS OF THE PACKAGE AS THE POWERS OF THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER AND THE FUNCTION OF THE UN FORCES, AKADIRI OPINED THAT THESE WERE 'PRELIMINARY' PF OBJECTIVES AND THAT OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN PRESENTED 'EVEN MORE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS' FOR THE PF. AKADIRI MENTIONED AS EXAMPLES THE PROVISIONS FOR AUTOMATIC CITIZENSHIP, FREEDOM OF IMMUNITY FROM PROSECUTION, AND PROPERTY GUARANTEES. AKADIRI AGREED THESE WERE THE KINDS OF INDUCEMENTS DOUBTLESS REQUIRED TO KEEP THE WHITES FROM ABANDONING THE NEW MAJORITY-RULED ZIMBABWE.

3. AKADIRI REITERATED THE LINE HE, GARBA AND OBASANJO HAVE TAKEN WITH US ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS CONCERNING THE FMG'S DEEP SKEPTICISM OF BRITISH MOTIVES. HE REFERRED AGAIN TO OWEN'S STATEMENT CONCERNING THE STRENGTH OF SMITH'S ARMY AS DEMONSTRATED BY THE RHODESIAN ATTACK INTO MOZAMBIQUE. HE SAID THAT ON SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FROM OBASANJO HE HAD TWICE IN RECENT WEEKS SUMMONED UK HIGH COMMISSIONER FALLE TO TRY TO OBTAIN CATEGORIC ASSURANCE OF AN ANTE-FACTO BRITISH REJECTION OF AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. ALL HE HAD SUCCEEDED IN GETTING WAS THE REFRAIN THAT THE UK COULD CONCUR IN NO SETTLEMENT THAT EXCLUDED ONE OF THE NATIONALIST GROUPS AND THAT WOULD NOT BE INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE. I READ TO AKADIRI THE STATEMENT AND QUESTION-PERIOD RESPONSE THAT OWEN MADE JANUARY 25 IN PARLIAMENT ON THIS QUESTION. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LAGOS 01116 01 OF 02 271229Z

AKADIRI SEEMED UNIMPRESSED BUT TOOK NOTE.

4. AKADIRI SAID THAT, WITH REGARD TO THE INTERNATIONAL ACCEPT-ABILITY OF AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT, NIGERIA SAW CONSIDERABLE POSSIBILITY OF THE FOLLOWING UNHAPPY SCENARIO. SOUTH AFRICA WOULD RECOGNIZE THE INTERNAL ARRANGEMENTS. SEVERAL OTHER CONSERVATIVE AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN THE AREA WOULD DO THE SAME. THEN ONE OR TWO LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, SUCH AS CHILE OR ARGENTINA OR URUGUAY, WOULD FOLLOW SUIT. US INFLUENCE MIGHT BE BROUGHT TO BEAR TO KEEP THE LATIN AMERICAN LIST DOWN BUT OUR INFLUENCE WOULD BE MINIMAL ELSEWHERE, IN ASIA, FOR EXAMPLE. NEW ZEALAND MIGHT RECOGNIZE THE NEW REGIME. SO MIGHT IRAN AND CONSERVATIVE ARABS. THEN EVEN FRANCE MIGHT FALL BY THE WAYSIDE, ALONG WITH CONSERVATIVE FRANCO-PHONE COUNTRIES LIKE SENEGAL AND THE IVORY COAST AND THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC. AFRICA WOULD THEN DIVIDE ONCE AGAIN AS DURING THE ANGOLAN CIVIL WAR, AND 'WE WILL ALL BE IN DEEP

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAGOS 01116 02 OF 02 271235Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----055460 271237Z /11

O R 271019Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6159
INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LAGOS 1116

EXDIS

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

TROUBLE.'

5. I TOLD AKADIRI THAT NIGERIAN DISTRUST OF BRITISH MOTIVES
SUGGESTED THAT SHOULD SUCH A SCENARIO RESULT, MANY AFRICAN
COUNTRIES WOULD FIND IT TEMPTING TO BLAME THE BRITISH. RATHER
THAN FALL BACK ON CRITICISM OF THE BRITISH, WOULD IT NOT BE
MORE RELEVANT, I ASKED, TO EXAMINE HOW THE PF HAD DEALT WITH
THE US/UK PROPOSAL? I MADE THE POINT SUGGESTED IN REFTEL A
THAT WE WOULD LOGICALLY BE QUERIED AS TO THE MERITS OF A PLAN
THAT NO ONE SUPPORTED. IF SMITH, SITHOLE AND MUZOREWA WANT
THEIR OWN WAY, AND IF THE PF DID NOT SUPPORT THE PLAN, HOW
COULD WE EXPECT OTHERS TO DO SO? HOW COULD WE EXPECT THE
SOUTH AFRICANS TO ACCEDE TO OUR PRESSURE THAT THEY URGE THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LAGOS 01116 02 OF 02 271235Z

PLAN ON SMITH? WAS IT NOT IMPORTANT TO ASSURE THAT THE RECORD
WOULD SHOW PRESSURE ON THE PF TO BE REASONABLE?

6. WE THEN MUSED TOGETHER REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY THAT A UNITED PATRIOTIC FRONT ESPOUSING FIRM SUPPORT OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS MIGHT BE ABLE IN DUE COURSE TO ENTER NEGOTIATIONS ON FAVORABLE TERMS WITH THE UPCOMING INTERIM REGIME IN RHODESIA. WE CONCLUDED MUCH WOULD HINGE ON THE EFFECT OF THE AMNESTY OFFER ON PF FIGHTING FORCES. AKADIRI GLOOMILY PREDICTED THAT, NO MATTER HOW WELL THE MALTA TALKS GO, CIVIL WAR WOULD BE INEVITABLE. WE DID NOT BELIEVE THE AMNESTY WOULD BE EFFECTIVE. HE SAID THAT THE WAR WOULD BE BLAMED ON THE BRITISH ANYWAY - PRIMARILY ON THE GROUNDS THAT THEY MISSED THEIR CHANCE TO PUT DOWN THE REBELLION 12 YEARS AGO WHEN IT STARTED. HAD THEY ARRESTED SMITH AT THAT TIME, CURRENT PROBLEMS WOULD NOT EXIST.

7. AKADIRI WOULD NOT BE DRAWN OUT ON PRECISE TRAVEL PLANS OF MUGABE AND NKOMO TO LAGOS OTHER THAN TO SAY THAT THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT WAS BRINGING THEM HERE AND THAT THEY WOULD PROBABLY ARRIVE JANUARY 27.

8. WE HAD TIME FOR ONLY A BRIEF EXCHANGE ON NAMIBIA. AKADIRI SAID OBASANJO WOULD BE HIGHLY PLEASED TO LEARN OF THE GOOD PROGRESS ON ARRANGING PROXIMITY TALKS. AKADIRI ECHOED STATEMENTS THAT WE HAVE HEARD BEFORE FROM OBASANJO TO THE EFFECT THAT SWAPO MUST BE SUFFICIENTLY FLEXIBLE TO ALLOW THE SAG TO SAVE FACE ON THE QUESTION OF SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN NAMIBIA DURING THE ELECTION PERIOD. ON THE ISSUE OF PRISONER RELEASE, HOWEVER, WHILE APPROVING OF THE PROPOSAL FOR A JRISTS COMMISSION TO MAKE THE TOUGH JUDGEMENTS ON WHO IS A POLITICAL PRISONER, AKADIRI SEEMED UNSYMPATHETIC WITH ANY INSISTENCE THAT PRISONERS OUTSIDE NAMIBIA BE INCLUDED.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LAGOS 01116 02 OF 02 271235Z

AKADIRI SAID THE FMG UNDERSTOOD AND APPRECIATED OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE THREATENED UNILATERAL SAG ANNOUNCEMENT OF ELECTIONS.
EASUM

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LAGOS01116
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780040-0989
Format: TEL
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780115/aaaaamdvtel
Line Count: 210
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 57b170df-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 19754, 78 DAR ES SALAAM 314
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3702453
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FMG AWAITS ARRIVAL OF NKOMO AND MUGABE
TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK, (MUGABE, ROBERT), (NKOMO, JOSHUA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/57b170df-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014